

WELLESLEY'S NATURAL RESOURCES

PROVIDING OUR WATER | CLEANING OUR AIR | SAVING US MONEY

The Wellesley Natural Resources Commission and the Wellesley Conservation Council, Wellesley's non-profit land trust, are working to spread the word about the many benefits* of our natural infrastructure, especially our trees and forested public lands. Here are just a few!

HEALTH BENEFITS:

- Lower rates of hypertension
- Better respiratory health
- Increased physical activity
- Healthier emotional wellbeing
- Stronger social cohesion

ECONOMIC BENEFITS:

- Higher property values
- Higher tax revenue
- Lower healthcare costs
- Increased employment rates

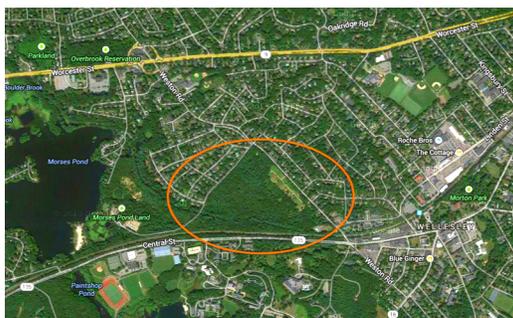


ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS:

- Cleaner water and air: forests filter out pollutants
- Improved climate: forests help cool our warming world
- CO2 reduction: forests offset 20% of our region's carbon dioxide emissions

HOW WELLESLEY BENEFITS:

- Fuller Brook works as a storm sewer, capturing and filtering 1/3 of our town's stormwater, removing pollutants and protecting our homes and streets from flooding.
- The forests surrounding Longfellow and Morses ponds supply our town's drinking water aquifers.
- The North 40's forty-six acres help clean the emissions of idling cars on congested Weston Road.
- Boulder Brook and Centennial reservations provide wildlife habitat, keeping our eco-systems in balance.
- Twenty-seven miles of wooded trails keep us inspired and in shape, and provide alternative transportation routes.
- Our trees and forests enhance our property values; cool our homes; clean our air; provide our oxygen; and help cool "heat islands" like downtown areas.



Wellesley's North 40 - the forested area circled in orange to the left - is an important wildlife corridor; provides, stores and protects drinking water; captures stormwater; hosts a vernal pool and the historic WWII Victory Gardens; and is part of Wellesley's Cross Town Trail.

Massachusetts is losing 7,000 acres of forest per year.



*Spencer Meyer, Senior Conservationist at the Highstead Institute and the Harvard Forest, spoke in Wellesley in April 2019 about the economic value of forests. Watch Dr. Meyer's talk here: <https://tinyurl.com/y4mkx2fq>
Or use this:

Visit wellesleyma.gov/NRC and wellesleyconservationcouncil.org to learn more about protecting our resources.

